

CHAPTER 95

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation— Board of Examiners in Optometry

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code §§ 40-37-10 et seq

95–1. Prescribing Contact Lenses as Practice of Optometry.

A. Prescribing contact lenses includes, but is not limited to, fitting lenses for either cosmetic or therapeutic purposes.

HISTORY: Amended by State Register Volume 9, Issue No. 3, eff March 22, 1985; State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007.

95–2. Advertisements.

A. An optometrist must identify him/herself as an optometrist or O.D. in all communications published or circulated, directly or indirectly, to the public.

B. An optometrist cannot designate him/herself as a specialist in any area of optometric practice unless he or she holds a certification from a creditable national organization recognized by the Board.

C. Assisting in obtaining fees under deceptive, false, or fraudulent circumstances includes, but is not limited to, providing optometric services to clients on behalf of, under the name of, or for wages from or in a fee splitting arrangement with a person, partnership, or corporation that is not in full compliance with South Carolina Code 40–37–390.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 4, eff March 14, 1980. Amended by State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007

95–3. Licensure Requirements.

A. All schools or colleges of optometry that hold accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Optometric Education are approved by the Board as the basis for licensure. Schools or colleges accredited by other bodies will be considered on a case by case basis for approval.

B. As a prerequisite for initial licensure, an applicant must have a passing score on the South Carolina Optometric Jurisprudence Examination and a passing score on parts one (I), two (II), and three (III) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination or the equivalent as determined by the Board.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 10, Issue No. 6, eff June 27, 1986. Amended by State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007; SCSR43–5 Doc. No. 4855, eff May 24, 2019.

95–4. Continuing Education.

A. Each licensee seeking renewal of a license must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education (CE) for the biennial licensure period. Continuing education instruction must be on subjects relative to optometry.

B. Each licensee shall report CE hours to the electronic tracking system designated by the Department for CE compliance and monitoring.

C. CPR certification courses are approved for four hours; CPR re-certification courses are approved for two hours.

D. An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by optometric or medical organizations or optometry or medical schools as approved by the Board.

E. No more than ten (10) of the forty (40) CE hours required for a biennial licensure period can be from online course unless otherwise approved by the Board.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007. Amended by SCSR43-5 Doc. No. 4855, eff May 24, 2019.

95-5. Licensure By Endorsement.

A. To demonstrate that he or she is currently licensed and practicing at the therapeutic level in another jurisdiction, an endorsement candidate should provide evidence of active practice for the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding application or in the alternative evidence of active practice during twenty four (24) of the last thirty six (36) months.

B. An endorsement candidate must obtain a passing score on the South Carolina Optometric Jurisprudence Examination and furnish proof of a passing score on parts one (I), two (II) and three (III) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination or its equivalent as determined by the Board as prerequisites for licensure by endorsement.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007. Amended by SCSR43-5 Doc. No. 4855, eff May 24, 2019.

95-6. Professional Standards For Patient Records.

A. Licensees of this Board must comply with the South Carolina Physicians' Patient Records Act, S.C. Code 44-115-10, et seq., except for 44-115-130.

B. A licensee who contracts with the owners of the optometric practice in which he or she provides professional services so that the owner agrees to manage the records in compliance with the Act will be considered in compliance with this regulation.

HISTORY: Added by State Register Volume 31, Issue No. 6, eff June 22, 2007.